

## Message Text

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72

ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01

/031 W

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R 271640Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1761

INFO USMISSION USUN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 714

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PINR, GR, UN

SUBJECT: DIMITRIOS K. VELISSAROPOULOS, NEW GREEK PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

REF: STATE 015229

1. OUR BIOGRAPHIC FILES HAVE THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL  
INFORMATION ON VELISSAROPOULOS. HE SPEAKS ENGLISH AND  
FRENCH, IS MARRIED AND HAS ONE DAUGHTER. HE MET HIS WIFE  
IN THE UNITED STATES, PRESUMABLY WHEN HE WAS SERVING IN  
NEW YORK IN THE MID-1950'S.

2. IN FEBRUARY 1972 VELISSAROPOULOS WAS NAMED GREEK  
AMBASSADOR TO CYPRUS. HOWEVER, HE NEVER TOOK UP HIS DUTIES  
THERE. HE HAD WORKED ON THE CYPRUS QUESTION IN 1963,  
WHEN HE WAS STAFF ASSISTANT TO THE THEN FOREIGN  
MINISTER, AND REPORTEDLY HIS VIEWS WERE GIVEN  
CONSIDERABLE WEIGHT AT THE TIME. THE CANCELLATION OF  
HIS APPOINTMENT AS AMBASSADOR TO CYPRUS WAS REPORTEDLY  
DUE TO A MEMORANDUM HE SENT TO THEN PM PAPADOPOULOS EARLY  
IN 1972 ON GREEK POLICY ON CYPRUS. IN HIS MEMORANDUM  
VELISSAROPOULOS ADVOCATED A MODERATE POLICY OF WORKING  
WITH MAKARIOS AND DISASSOCIATING THE GOV FOR EITHER  
ENOSIS OR PARTITION. AFTER DIGESTING THE MEMORANDUM AND  
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THE PRESS SPECULATION IT HAD STIMULATED, PAPADOPOULOS

APPARENTLY DECIDED AGAINST SENDING A MODERATE LIKE  
VELISSAROPOULOS TO NICOSIA. VELISSAROPOULOS WAS SUBSEQUENTLY  
SENT TO GENEVA AS AMBASSADOR.

3. VELISSAROPOULOS IS FROM A GREEK-BULGARIAN FAMILY. HE  
IS WELL EDUCATEDN INTELLIGENT, AND HARD WORKING. ALTHOUGH  
LACKING THE USUAL FAMILY CONNECTIONS AND EARLY PATRONAGE  
THAT HELP ADVANCEMENT IN THE GREEK FOREIGN SERVICE, HE  
HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN HIS CAREER. WHEN HE RETRND  
TO MFA FROM PARIS IN 1971 HE HAD HOPED TO ORGANIZE  
A PLANNING OFFICE IN THE MINISTRY (SOMETHING SIMILAR TO  
S/PC) BUT HIS PLAN WAS APPARENTLY NOT SUPPORTED AT HIGHER  
LEVELS AND CAME TO NOTHING.  
KUBISCH

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PDIP, PINR, GR, UN, (VELISSAROPOULOS, DIMITRIOS K)  
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